

LISTING OF THE CLAIMS:

1-26. (Cancelled)

27. (Currently Amended) A packaged antimicrobial elastomeric article comprising:

an elastomeric article that is essentially free of powder and starch, and is coated ~~on an outside surface~~ with at least one wetting agent, at least one antifoaming agent, and at least one antimicrobial agent; and

a package enclosing said elastomeric article and comprising a desiccant for reducing the relative humidity in the vicinity of the elastomeric article to less than the ambient relative humidity;

~~wherein the antimicrobial activity of the elastomeric article is extended compared to an unpackaged elastomeric article, and~~

wherein the packaged elastomeric article is capable of causing at least 1 log₁₀ reduction of the initial number of microorganisms that come into contact with the treated glove surface in ~~one minute~~ five minutes of contact after being stored and/or transported for at least 45 days.

28. (Previously Presented) The packaged elastomeric article of claim 27, wherein the elastomeric article is a glove.

29. (Previously Presented) The packaged elastomeric article of claim 28, wherein the at least one antimicrobial agent comprises at least one chlorhexidine salt and at least one quaternary ammonium halide.

30-32. (Cancelled)

33. (Previously Presented) The packaged elastomeric article of claim 28, wherein the package enclosing the glove comprises a moisture-resistant barrier container or metal foil pouch.

34. (Previously Presented) The packaged elastomeric article of claim 28, wherein at least one chlorhexidine salt is chlorhexidine gluconate and at least one quaternary ammonium halide is benzalkonium chloride and/or cetyl pyridinium chloride.

35-49. (Cancelled)

50. (New) The packaged elastomeric article of claim 28, wherein the antimicrobial agent is applied to the surface of the glove by spraying or dipping.

51. (New) The packaged elastomeric article of claim 28, wherein the desiccant reduces the relative humidity in the vicinity of the glove to less than about 30% relative humidity.

52. (New) The packaged elastomeric article of claim 27, wherein the microorganisms comprise *Staphylococcus aureus* and/or *Pseudomonas aeruginosa*.